

Kearsarge Beekeepers Association

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Dearth? I do believe for the first time ever, we are skipping the dearth in my area! The smell of goldenrod nectar is so strong from my home yard hives, that it fills my olfactory senses before I get to my truck. It’s aroma therapy for the beekeeper. Yes, I will spend an extra minute standing outside by my truck just to whiff the air before heading to work. Back in the mid-70’s I was covering a paper route for a friend. One of the houses on the route had a porch that smelled like goldenrod nectar to me. I wonder if they had a hive close by or a colony living in the walls?

It’s hard to believe our favorite season of beekeeping will be coming to an end soon. I want to warn those of you who are sensitive to 5 letter words, winter is mentioned a few times here! Hopefully you have done your mite washes and are treating them when needed. All my mite washes were less than 3%. This always makes me nervous as mite counts tend to jump in the fall. I will do another wash in a few weeks to make sure mite numbers haven’t spiked. I do an OA vapor in the fall after the queen stops laying and the capped brood is greatly reduced. A warm fall will push the timing for this back. During a warm spell I would take a peek and see if the queen is still laying.

It has been a good year if you wanted to use Formic (acid) Pro or Apiguard (Thymol) treatments with the temps staying below 80 degrees. Down south they haven’t been going below 90 degrees for months. Most appear to be using Apivar (synthetic miticide) which is a bit more expensive.

We are at the time when you might need to make a decision on whether to combine a hive or reduce to a nuc. If you have a weak hive or they haven’t drawn out all of the foundation you have given them by now, it might be best to combine or reduce the space they have to winter in. Don’t have a nuc hive to reduce to? Replace undrawn/empty frames with fowler boards or rigid insulation on the outer walls of the hive, creating a smaller living space. We should be evaluating our hive’s food stores for winter. Generally you want around 80-100lbs of honey in your hives. Supplemental feeding is done by October. Warmer falls have pushed this date back some years. Point being, we don’t want a lot of open, uncured syrup sitting in our hives when the freeze comes. That would lead to excessive moisture in the hives during winter and probably a deadout. However, with this season’s rains, nectar appears to be limitless and feeding may not be necessary. If any of my hives are lite on feed, I will bulk feed them like Mike Palmer does, it works very well. Mike Palmer video: [\(11\) Weighing Beehives - YouTube](#). Top hive feeders work well too. Watch for robbing! Front or entrance feeders are not recommended for fall feeding. Keep an eye on the extended temperature forecast. If a cold front is coming, dropping daytime temps into the 40’s, I will remove all liquid feed a week or two in advance of the cold front. If your hives are not up to weight, think about placing a sugar board as insurance. Timing of this for newby’s is tough the first couple years. It does get easier! There will be HOWS at the club apiary to answer your questions on wintering your hives properly. Try to attend them and you may not have to order more bees, assuming you have your mites under control as well.

Continued on page 4...



- Honeybee on Goldenrod
- [Is Goldenrod Good for Bees? - Carolina Honeybees](#)
- [What Is That Smell In My Bee Yard? Keeping Backyard Bees](#)
- [Stinky honey - Honey Bee Suite](#)

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NEXT MEETING
 SEPTEMBER 9 , 2023
 @ 9:00 AM

In person @
 the **Warner Town Hall**

AGENDA TO INCLUDE:
Minutes from the Previous Meeting
Treasurer’s Report
Old Business
New Business

Guest Speaker: Troy Hall

AUGUST 2023 KBA MEETING NOTES

Warner Town Hall, August 12, 2023

Attendance: 12 members. Shreve Soule (N Sutton), Robin & Myra Gray (Warner), Diane Mancino (Claremont), Mike Plunkett (Newbury), Eric DeKing (Warner), Randy Bam Fleury (Sutton), Myra LaPierre (Sutton), Ann Harris (New London), Bob DeLuca (Warner), John Chadwick (Sutton), Ted Hebert (Webster), Amelia Lantz (Grantham), Ken Meier (Springfield).

New Members: Welcome Ken Meier and Ted Hebert.

Secretary's Report (Diane Mancino) In July we met at the Apiary for HOWS, and we had the KBA BBQ, so no meeting minutes for July to report.

Treasurer's Report (Robin Gray) \$7449 is in the KBA bank account. Current membership stands at 164 Members and 78 members have paid for 2023. (86 unpaid members). 29 members are from BeeSchool. The Port-A-Potty is now property of the club, Purchase price was \$300 for the unit and it is \$35 for each service cleaning.

Apiary Report (Bam Fleury) We have 4 overwintered hives. Dana Ramspott extracted 40 lbs of honey, and a lot more needs to be extracted.

Troy Hall came to the Apiary to demonstrate a HOWS on Queen grafting, nine people attended. Bam noted that Quinn grafted 13 and had six successful grafts. Justina Terino had one successful graft, and Troy had 30 out of 28 successful grafts. Those in attendance got to take queen cells home in a queen castle,

Scott Niemeyer took three nuc colonies home after they created 5 nuc colonies for the club.

Bam said another honey extraction will be necessary, but frames need to be dehydrated for about a week. Hives will be reduced to two deeps. Note: BAM explained to us how you can use a dehumidifier on a room to bring down the moisture content of a frame of honey before extraction, The beekeeper finishing it off instead of the bees, getting it to 15-18% moisture.

The Top Bar hive is doing well. New top bars are installed, but little honey will be extracted.

Musterfield Farm Days will be August 26 & 27, 2023. We will plan on having a booth again and selling honey. Volunteers welcome. 1 LB and 2 LB jars of honey will be available.

Special Thanks! It was mentioned to give Kirk Chadwick and his wife a \$50 dinner gift certificate for helping unload our 2 pallets (\$4200) of glass jar orders. These are stored at Shreve's house. Thank you also to Troy Hall for his generous contributions. In the future, if we decide to order jars, charge a little more to have a slight profit.

Bee School Bob DeLuca, August 16 will be the next committee meeting. The 2024 Bee School dates will start January 27 and end February 24 (5 Saturdays), from 9:00

am to 1:00 pm. The price is set at \$80. The Bee School flyers are at the printers. Presenters have been selected including Eric Deking (pollination and foraging). Amelia will be having a chili dinner for bee school presenters at her house in Grantham.

Betsey McNaughten, will be in charge of the raffle.

Speaker Committee Susan and Kim have arranged for Troy Hall to speak at the September club meeting. Date: September 9, at 9:00 am, Warner, NH Town Hall.

Library Committee Jeff McCormack, donated books, Special thanks for your contributions!

Nominating Committee No News

Education Outreach (Amelia Lantz) Amelia Lantz and Jeff Stevens are caring for the hives at the Newport School including mite washes/treatments. There are no students. Hives need to be moved due to construction. Two successful colonies.

Website Development

T Shirts We sold all of our inventory and have three shirts left for the harvest dinner raffle. There is interest in long sleeve UV shirts. Diane Mancino will get information on those by the next meeting. A pre-order sign up will be started to see if we have a minimum order.

Harvest Dinner November 10 and 11, date is booked with the church. Dr Lamas is the speaker. Shreve suggested that if we invite other clubs to the dinner, they would pay \$15 or join KBA. Have a donation jar for the speaker. We can seat 100 people at the dinner. Invite through NHBA website. The Committee approved.

Congratulations! Anna had her baby!

Mike Plunkett (Newbury), Expressed his gratitude to the club for the mentorship of the members.

Citizen science was discussed. Check out Zac Lamas online.

Shreve reported on the NH beekeeper association BBQ. There was a good turnout. They took in more than \$2000 in the raffle. They have a new website and can accept payments for membership dues, donations and goods. The October meeting is posted on their website.

Meeting adjourned.



Thank you Jeff McCormack for donating to replenish KBA's library!

KBA Long-sleeve T-shirts

There is interest in KBA long sleeve UV shirts. Good news! We can get them! Diane is working on a quote, for our Logo on the chest and back and "Kearsarge Beekeeper Association" the length of the left sleeve. Stay tuned for more info and ordering opportunities!



KBA's Barn Quilt

The KBA Apiary has a new look! A beautiful barn quilt designed and made by Betty Ramspott. "Barn quilts are a form of Americana folk art that can have a couple of different meanings. Some are made in dedication to a specific person and hung up on a family barn. Others may represent a family as a whole or a community." [What Are Barn Quilts? \(quilt.com\)](http://www.quilt.com). What a fun topic for a future HOWs!!! Thank you Betty for the beautiful barn quilt that you made for the club apiary!



The story of barn quilts: [What Are Barn Quilts And Where Did They Get Their Start? \(southernliving.com\)](http://www.southernliving.com)

KBA COMITTEES

Apiary Committee

Randy (Bam) Fleury

KBA Bee School Committee

Bob DeLuca

Speaker Committee

Susan Menard

Kim Pease

KBA Scholarship Committee

Kim Pease

Education/Outreach Committee

Kim Pease

Library Committee

Patrice Fredette

Nomination Committee

John Chadwick

If you are interested in participating on a committee, reach out to any of the officers listed on the back page of this newsletter or any of the chairs listed above. Email KBA at kbanhclub@gmail.com for contact information.



Kearsarge Beekeepers Annual Picnic at Ramspott Farm

Thank you John Chadwick for sharing your great pictures from the

KBA picnic!!!



Happy Birthday, Gordon!



This year's smoker contest winners
Congratulations Fred and Quinn!!!

2023 KBA CALENDAR

Month/Date	Day	Time	Location	Topic	Mentor
Sep			Apiary	HOWs: Mite Treatment	
Sep 02	Sat	9:00 AM	Apiary	HOWs: Feeding for Winter	
Sep 09	Sat	9:00 AM	Warner	KBA Monthly Meeting	
Sep 16	Sat	9:00 AM			TBD
Sep 23	Sat	9:00 AM			TBD
Oct 14	Sat	9:00 AM	TBD	KBA Monthly Meeting	
Oct/Nov				Winterization	
Nov 10 (tentative)	Fri	TBD	TBD	KBA Harvest Dinner	
Nov 11 (tentative)	Sat	TBD	TBD	KBA Regular Meeting and Guest Speaker	

Additional events and HOWs may be added through the month. Check the KBA Facebook page for announcements and updates.
KBA Apiary: 223 North Road, Sunapee NH

... *President's Message, continued.*

Sunday 8/20 the club extracted and bottled the remainder of our honey harvest: two deeps and around three mediums. We had a good turn out and had fun trying not to get sticky. We used all of the jars purchased as well as a bunch of plastic bottles that were donated to the club. I believe around 100-130 pounds of honey! Thank you Bam! Another great year for the club apiary.

The club is looking at purchasing long sleeve club shirts with sun guard. Keep an eye on the notices for when ordering time is announced if you are interested.

NHBA has a fall conference on Saturday October 21st with speakers. Seacoast is hosting. Looks like a fun time! New Hampshire Beekeepers Association (nhbeekeepers.org) webpage for updates and information.

In closing, I would like to thank all of our club members who are actively organizing club activities and keeping things running! What a great club! I hope to see you at our next monthly meeting. After business, it's a great time to have your questions answered by some of the club members and catch up with old friends.

*At your service,
Shreve Soule
President of KBA*



Kearsarge Beekeepers Association

President: Shreve Soule
Vice President: Patrice Fredette
Treasurer: Robin Gray
Secretary: Diane Mancino
Newsletter: Marilyn Milne

Please send information for newsletter to: kbanhclub@gmail.com
Join our Facebook page at: KBA-NH (private group)

